SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, the Government employees of Doordarshan and All India Radio — programme staff and executives — are on a hunger strike from the 6th of December.

Some of them are going to die in the hospital but the Government is insentives. They are demanding restoration of parity and nothing more...*(Interruptions)* The people are dying. They are on an indefinite hunger strike from 6th of December. This question was repeatedly asked on the floor of the House and an assurance was given by the Minister of Information and Broadcasting that they had recommended to the Ministry of Finance and that they had agreed to the just demands of the programme staff. The Minister has made a public statement in this regard. The Finance Ministry has agreed to restore parity in respect of the pay scales of the programme executives and the engineering assistants but till today no progress has been made. Today you will find that the employees are on the road. They are dying. They are on a hunger strike. I wonder how a Government can be so insensitive to the just demands of its own employees. I, therefore, urge upon the Government that they should come out with some positive assurance and save the lives of the young men, its own employees who are on the road ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is already a part and parcel of the record. They want only a statement.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I cannot compel the Government for everything.

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir through you I would like to draw attention of the House towards a big corruption scandal. This scandal of Indian Bank to the tune of Rs. 1500 crores came into light on 9th November, 1992. High officials are also involved in it and CBI is enquiring into it but there are some officers in the Finance Ministry who are not granting permission to Inquire into and take necessary action against the officers of Indian Bank. Even one of the high officers involved in the scandal has now become an active member of TMC Party. It appears that the Government is trying to hush up this scandal of Rs. 1500 crores. Sir, through you, I would like to demand that the Government should inform the House about the action taken on this scandal since 1992...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (Vidisha) : Sir, the Adivasi areas of Madhya Pradesh are reeling under famine. I have been giving notices for the last two weeks ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI CHURCHILL ALEMAO (Mormugao) : Sir, as early as September 1995, the Konkan Railway Corporation had submitted plans to construct a Road Overbridge at the level crossing at Majorda-Goa. Everyone was in agreement with the plan. Suddenly three weeks ago, a bombshell was dropped on the people of the area by proposing to construct the Road Underbridge. The reasons given are: high cost of the overhead bridge and non-sharing of this high cost by the State Government. I regret to point out that no one has thought of the safety technical feasibililty and well-being of the poor people living around the area.

There is a water reservoir near it and the road could not be constructed under the bank of the shallow formation. Water will be logged and the area would be submerged posing a great hazard to the people. On 20th November, 1996, the Village Panchayats of Calatta-Majorda, Utorda, Majorda, Salcete-Goa has in its emergency meeting passed a resolution asking KRC to stop the work for Road Underbridge and restart the Road Overbridge. A few days ago, I visited the area and found people agitated and talking of going to the courts to reverse the proposal. The situation is fraught with tension, fear and may result in violence and litigation resulting in long delay to complete the project.

I, therefore, request the Central Government, personally the Railway Minister, to take remedial measures in time to avert an ugly turn. May I ask this august House whether the high cost of a project can be traded for the safety, well-being and convenience of the affected people?

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Sir, I have given a notice inviting the attention of the Finance Minister and the Government as a whole to the inordinate delay by the Fifth Central Pay Commission in submitting their report to the Government. Earlier, when this Central Pay Commission was appointed, the time given to them for making the report was one-and-a-half years. That expired in January, 1996. The Commission did not submit its report on the scheduled date. The date was then shifted to June, 1996. It was further shifted to September, 1996 and then I do not know whether it was further shifted to any other date. Unless the Central Pay Commision sumits its report, the Central Government employees, numbering about forty four lakhs, are being denied of their legitimate wage increase and other allowances. It is not only the forty lakh Central Government employees who are concerned, but their families too. And not only the Central Government employees and their families but one and a half crore State Government employees are also affected by this delay.

Therefore, the Government should take immediate initiative to persuade the Justice Pandiyan Commission to submit its report as early as possible and the Government should take a positive decision in the matter so that the legitimate demands and hopes and aspirations of the crores of Central Government and State Government employees are met without further delay. If any further delay is caused, it will be a very

dangerous example and it will not create a conducive atmosphere for the Central Government employees to work in a way they are required to work.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (Vidisha) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Adivasi area of Madhya Pradesh particularly Chhatisgarh area is reeling under severe drought situations and as a result of it the entire crops of farmers has destroyed...*(Interruptions)* The farmers have nothing to eat and when farmers are hungry, how they will be able to provide work to the labourers. Due to this drought situation Adivasi people are not getting any work. In Betul district, Adivasi people are eating boiled leaves of trees and becoming victims of different serious diseases. More than one lakh Adivasis have migrated from Madhya Pradesh. I am not giving this figure but it is an official figure of Madhya Pradesh. People have migrated to other State in search of employment but they are not getting proper wages in other States also. They are not able to send any money to their families. The State Government of Madhya Pradesh have totally failed in combating the drought situation and the Central Government has not yet sanctioned even a single penny for this purpose. The Central Government makes discrimination against Madhya Pradesh in other matters but atleast in case of drought no such discrimination should be made. Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to demand that the Central Government should provide an assistance of atleast Rs. 100 crore to Madhya Pradesh Government immediately.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to raise an important matter. The present leader of the House Shri Ram Vilas Paswan was an outstanding Member of the Janata Party in 1977. The then Government launched a Health Guide Scheme under Health Department. Under this scheme one health worker was appointed for every one thousand population, on the basis of some honorarium, after giving three months training with a view to provide health guidance and first aid facility in villages. Since then Health Guide Scheme is going on in all Talukas and villages. In 1977 the Government appointed more than one lakh unemployment persons on the basis honorarium of Rs. 50 per month and since then they are working in the villages. Since the United Front Government has included rural health in its basic programme and it is one of the seven priorities fixed by this Government, I would like to say through you, that these healthy workers are still getting an honorarium of Rs. 50 per month whereas today a daily wages labourer earns Rs. 65 per day in Delhi.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want your protection in this regard. I would like to request the leader of the House and the Parliamentary Affairs Minister that this matter has been raised time and again in the House and despite the assurance given by the Minister, nothing has been done till now. I would request the leader of the House and the Parliamentary Affairs Minister to make an announcement in the House that this Health Guide Scheme would be implemented in every village of the country and workers employed under this scheme would be declared as Government employee and they would be given salaries equivalent to Government employee so that this scheme may be implemented in a proper manner. Sir, I would request you to direct the Government in this regard. The Government should give a statement in the House so that the interests of health workers could be protected.

SHRI M. SELVARASU (Nagapattinam) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise a matter of urgent public importance.

According to the Cauvery Tribunal's verdict the Karnataka State has to release 51 TMC of water of Tamil Nadu. But that State has released only about 15 TMC of water so far. The small and medium farmers are suffering due to lack of water and lakhs of agricultural labourers have become jobless. At least 15 TMC of water has to be released immediately. Moreover, the Cauvery Water Tribunal is now headless after the resignation of its Chairman. A new Chairman has to be appointed immediately for the proper functioning of the Tribunal.

Sir, this is a very serious matter. I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through you, and request that the Minister concerned may kindly take immediate steps for the release of water and for appointment of a new Chairman.

I thank you for the opportunity given to me.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South-Central) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, earlier persons having apprentice training used to get jobs but now they have not been getting jobs for the last 7-8 years. On the other hand a large number of daily wage vacancies are falling vacant in Mumbai but even then the apprentices are not being given employment. In this regard the Supreme Court has also given a verdict. The Railway Minister is present in the House. He had also given us assurance that apprentices would be given priority. The Supreme Court has also given direction to give priority to such apprentices. There are about 750 such workers, who are also not getting any help from Employment Exchange. The hon. Labour Minister had also said that they would be given priority. Now-a-days outsiders are being recuited there but these apprentices are not being employed. Sir, through you, I would like to request the Railway Minister to give an assurance in the House that they would be given jobs at the earliest. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Railway Minister is prepared to say something. You please direct him...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : If he want to react he can do so but I cannot compel him.